

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 16475 151245Z

53

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-01 SP-02

PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /040 W

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R 151126Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7619

S E C R E T BANGKOK 16475

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH

SUBJ: ANTI-CIA PRESS CAMPAIGN IN THAILAND

FOR AMBASSADOR KINTNER FROM MASTERS

DEPARTMENT FOR EA/TB

1. IN CASE YOU ARE QUERIED ON IT EN ROUTE OR ON ARRIVAL IN BANGKOK, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE THAI PRESS IS ENGAGED IN ANOTHER ANTI-CIA CAMPAIGN. THIS ONE WILL PROBABLY RUN ITS COURSE WITHOUT ANY LASTING DAMAGE, BUT IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT SOMETHING MIGHT GIVE IT A SHOT IN THE ARM.

2. THIS LATEST FLAP HAS RESULTED FROM A ROUND-ROBIN LETTER WHICH AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE "THAI PROTECTION GROUP" IN THE UNITED STATES HAS SENT TO A NUMBER OF THAI NEWSPAPERS. THE TPG HAS APPARENTLY COMPARED THE EAST GERMAN PUBLICATION "WHO'S WHO IN THE CIA" WITH A RECENT COPY OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE LIST AND HAS CONCLUDED THAT "AROUND 100 PERSONS HAVE BEEN SENT BY THE CIA TO OPERATE IN THAILAND." YOU ARE IDENTIFIED AS THE HEAD OF THIS NEFARIOUS GROUP AND THE LETTER ALSO MENTIONS THAT YOU ARE A "DIRECT SUBORDINATE OF VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE ROCKEFELLER." I AM RATED AS THE "NUMBER TWO CIA MAN IN THAILAND" (WHY AM I ALWAYS NUMBER TWO?). OTHERS WHO MADE THE HIT PARADE ARE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 16475 151245Z

DICK SLOTT, BOB FULTON, EDDIE SCHODT AND SOME OFFICERS NOW OR

FORMERLY WITH USOM.

3. THILE THE TPG LETTER HAS BEEN CARRIED PROMINENTLY IN BOTH THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND THAI PRESS, THE WHOLE ISSUE HAS BEEN PUSHED INTO THE BACKGROUND BY DOMESTIC EVENTS SUCH AS THE CREMATION CEREMONY YESTERDAY FOR THOSE KILLED DURING THE OVERTHROW OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT A YEAR AGO. WE ARE POOH-POOHING THE TPG LETTER TO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WHO INQUIRE, POINTING OUT THAT THE EAST GERMAN PUBLICATION WAS DISCREDITED YEARS AGO. BOTH UP AND AP ASKED OUR PRESS ATTACHE ABOUT THE STORY, BUT WERE PERSUADED, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, NOT TO FILE STORIES. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO QUERIES FROM THE THAI PRESS, AND I PREFER AT THIS POINT NOT TO VOLUNTEER ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT WHICH WOULD ONLY ATTRACT ATTENTION TO WHAT HOPEFULLY WILL BE A TEAPOT TEMPEST.

4. THERE IS NO REASON AT THIS POINT TO THINK THAT THIS MATTER WOULD AFFECT YOUR RETURN IN ANY WAY. IF THIS SHOULD CHANGE, I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU EN ROUTE. OTHERWISE, I'LL MEET YOU FRIDAY AT PLANSIDE IN ORDER TO BRING YOU UP-TO-DATE BEFORE YOU MIGHT BE HIT BY A LOCAL JOURNALIST. WE ARE NOT ADVERTISING THE TIME OF YOUR RETURN AND WOULD NOT EXPECT THE PRESS TO BE PRESENT AT THE AIRPORT, BUT IT IS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN OTHERWISE.

5. WARM REGARDS,
MASTERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 OCT 1974
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